

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PA, XM, TW, BR, AO, CI

SUBJ: LATIN AMERICAN ANTI-COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

REF:ASUNCION 1208

SUMMARY. THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ANTI-COMMUNIST FEDERATION HELD IN ASUNCION MARCH 28-30 WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IN SPITE OF INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL GOP EFFORTS TO QUASH SUCH CRITICISM. A UNANIMOUSLY-ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLED FOR A CABLE TO BE SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER STRONGLY PROTESTING "UNACCEPTABLE ATTACKS ON NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS FOR NOT RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS." PROMINENT VISITORS INCLUDED CHILEAN AIR FORCE CHIEF GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH AND U.S. CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DORNAN (R, CALIF.), WHO TOLD THE PRESS HE GENERALLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ANTI-COMMUNIST FEDERATION HELD IN ASUNCION MARCH 28-30 ATTRACTED SOME 200 DELEGATES FROM 22 COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE AND OBSERVERS FROM VARIOUS OTHER PARTS OF THE GLOBE. INCLUDED AMONG THE LATTER WERE THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE, KU CHENG KANG OF TAIWAN; CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DORNAN (R, CALIF.); AND AN

"ANGOLAN", ANTAO SOUSA.

2. PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE IT HAD BEEN REPORTED THAT A MAJOR THEME WOULD BE CRITICISM OF THE U.S. FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS STAND. THE ANTI-U.S. FOCUS WAS DELIBERATELY KEPT OUT OF THE OPENING SESSION, ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT STROESSNER, HIS ENTIRE CABINET, AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THE PARAGUAYAN HOSTS SCREENED PREPARED SPEECHES AND DELETED POTENTIALLY OFFENDING REMARKS. DURING SUBSEQUENT WORKING AND PLENARY SESSIONS, HOWEVER THE DAM BROKE AND HARSH CRITICISM OF THE U.S. FLOWED FREELY AND WAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY IN THE LOCAL PRESS. THE BRAZILIANS LED THE WAY, ATTACKING THE U.S. FOR USING HUMAN RIGHTS TO INTERFERE IN BRAZIL'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND TO DISGUISE ECONOMIC IMPERIALIST EFFORTS TO DENY BRAZIL ACCESS TO NEW ENERGY SOURCES.

3. THE FINAL SESSION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL AIMED AT THE U.S. THEY

A. LODGED A "STRONG PROTEST AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER... FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE THE INDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS";

B. CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE DISPATCH OF A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER STATING SPECIFICALLY THAT "THIS CONGRESS CONSIDERS UNACCEPTABLE HIS ATTITUDE OF ATTACKING ANTI-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS FOR NOT RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS";

C CONGRATULATED THE MINORITY IN THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR "PATRIOTICALLY OPPOSING THE SOCIALISTIC POLICIES OF CARTER'S GOVERNMENT AND FOR ACTING AGAINST COMMUNISM AND IN FAVOR OF A FREINDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLIANCE AMONG THE PEOPLES O THE FREE WORLD"; AND

D. CONGRATULATED ALL CUBANS AND AMERICANS WHO ARE "FIGHTING THE PROPOSALS OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ASSASSIN CASTRO GOVERNMENT..."

4. THE CONFERENCE ALSO SOUNDED FAMILIAR ANTI-COMMUNIST THEMES, AND HAILED THE GOVERNMENTS OF PARAGAY, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, CHILE, URUGUAY, NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR AS BEING IN THE VANGUARD OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE IN LATIN AMERICA.

5. AMONG THE DELEGATES WAS CHILEAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH GUZMAN. ALTHOUGH HERE IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY, AS WERE ALL THE DELEGATES, GENERAL LEIGH WAS GIVEN VIP TREATMENT BY THE GOP.

6. THE "ANGOLAN" ANTAO SOUSA WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THE ANTI-MPLA FORCES HAD SUFFICIENT ARMS TO CONTINUE GUERRILLA OPERATIONS FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS. THE PRESS IDENTIFIED

SOUSA AS A MEMBER OF THE FNLA.

7. CONGRESSMAN DORNAN TOLD REPORTERS ON ARRIVAL THAT HE SUPPORTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS ABUSES IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THE PRESS LATER REPORTED HE SAID HE FELT CURRENT U.S. POLICY WAS CAUSING CONFUSION IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE IRON CURTAIN, WHICH HE BLAMED ON CONGRESS; THAT HE ADMIRER BRAZIL'S "COURAGE" IN REJECTING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE; AND THAT HE DEPLORED USING HUMAN RIGHTS AS A PRETEXT FOR SEEKING TO TOPPLE FREE AND INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC REGIMES. DURING HIS STAY CONGRESSMAN DORNAN HAD A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER, AND LATER WAS REPORTED AS SAYING PARAGUAY COULD COUNT ON HIS SUPPORT IN CONGRESS.

8. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A SOURCE CLOSE TO STROESSNER
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THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL PLEASED WITH THE WAY THE CONFERENCE TURNED OUT, NOR WITH THE HEAVY EMPHASIS IN THE LOCAL (INDEPENDENT) PRESS ON THE ANTI-AMERICAN THEME WHICH HE INTERPRETED AS A DELIBERATE MEANS OF TRYING TO CAUSE FRICTION BETWEEN THE GOP AND USG.
LANDAU

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